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Page 9

Back-to-back hurricanes reshape 2024 campaign's final stretch



President Joe Biden speaks about the federal government's response to Hurricanes Milton and Helene as Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm listens, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Friday, Oct. 11, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A pair of unwelcome and destructive guests named Helene and Milton have stormed their way into this year's presidential election. The back-to-back hurricanes have jumbled the schedules of Democrat Kamala Har-

ris and Republican Donald Trump, both of whom devoted part of their recent days to tackling questions about the storm recovery effort. The two hurricanes are forcing basic questions about who as president would best respond to deadly natural disasters, a once-overlooked issue that has

become an increasingly routine part of the job. And just weeks before the Nov. 5 election, the storms have disrupted the mechanics of voting in several key counties.

Vice President Harris is trying to use this as an opportunity to project leadership, appearing alongside President

Joe Biden at briefings and calling for bipartisan cooperation. Former President Trump is trying to use the moment to attack the administration's competence and question whether it is withholding help from Republican areas, despite no evidence of such behavior. Adding to the pressure is the

need to provide more money for the Small Business Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which would require House Republicans to work with the Democratic administration.

Continued on Page 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WATER'S EDGE RESTAURANT & BAR

costa linda beach resort

Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

PREMIUM BRANDS
★★★

Back-to-back hurricanes reshape 2024 campaign's final stretch

Continued from Front

Biden said Friday that Hurricane Milton alone had caused \$50 billion in estimated damages.

"Dealing with back-to-back crises will put FEMA under more scrutiny and, therefore, the Biden administration will be under a microscope in the days leading up to the election," said Timothy Kneeland, a professor at Nazareth University in Rochester, New York, who has studied the issue.

"Vice President Harris must empathize with the victims without altering the campaign schedule and provide consistent messaging on the widespread devastation that makes FEMA's work even more challenging than normal," Kneeland added.

Already, Trump and Harris have separately gone to Georgia and North Carolina to assess hurricane damage and pledge support, requiring the candidates to cancel campaign events elsewhere and use up time that is a precious resource in the final weeks before any election. Both Georgia and North Carolina are political battlegrounds, raising the stakes. The hurricane fallout is evident in the candidates' campaign events as well.

On Thursday, the first question Harris got at a Univision town hall in Las Vegas came from



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, right, receives a briefing from North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper on the damage from Hurricane Helene, Saturday, October 5, 2024 in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

a construction worker and undecided voter from Tampa, Florida. Ramiro Gonzalez asked about talk that the administration has not done enough to support people after Helene and whether the people in Milton's path would have access to aid — a sign that Trump's messaging is breaking through with some potential voters. Harris has called out the level of misinformation being circulated by Republicans, but her fuller answer revealed the dynamics at play just a few weeks before an election. "I have to stress that this is

not a time for people to play politics," she said.

On the same day, Trump opened his speech at the Detroit Economic Club by praising Republican governors in the affected states and blasting the Biden-Harris administration.

"They've let those people suffer unjustly," he said about those affected by Helene in North Carolina.

The storms have also scrambled the voting process in places. North Carolina's legislature passed and Gov. Roy Cooper signed this week a law that helps people in 25

affected counties with more ways to vote. Florida will allow some counties greater flexibility in distributing mail-in ballots and changing polling sites for in-person voting. But a federal judge in Georgia said Thursday the state doesn't need to reopen voter registration despite the disruptions by Helene.

Tension and controversy have begun to override the disaster response, with Biden on Wednesday and Thursday saying that Trump has spread falsehoods that are "un-American."

Candace Bright Hall-Wurst,

a sociology professor at East Tennessee State University, said that natural disasters have become increasingly politicized, often putting more of the focus on the politicians instead of the people in need.

"Disasters are politicized when they have political value to the candidate," she said. "This does not mean that the politicization is beneficial to victims."

As the Democratic nominee, Harris has suddenly been a major part of the response to hurricanes, a role that traditionally has not involved vice presidents in prior administrations.

On Thursday, she participated virtually at a Situation Room briefing on Milton while she was in Nevada for campaign activities. She has huddled in meetings about response plans and on Wednesday phoned into CNN live to discuss the administration's efforts. At a Friday briefing with Biden to discuss the hurricanes, Harris repeated a message that subtly ties back into her campaign policies to stop price gouging.

"To any company or individual that is using this crisis to jack up prices through illegal fraud or price gouging, whether it be at the gas pump, the airport or the hotel counter, we will be monitoring and there will be a consequence," Harris said. □

If you let your flood insurance lapse and then got hit by Helene, you may be able to renew it



A house sits toppled off its stilts after the passage of Hurricane Milton, alongside an empty lot where a home was swept away by Hurricane Helene, in Bradenton Beach on Anna Maria Island, Fla., Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

By REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Resi-

dents in the states hit by Hurricane Helene who had coverage through the fed-

eral flood insurance program but let it lapse before the storm hit may be able to renew it and still be covered from the impact.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said late Thursday that certain policyholders in seven states affected by Hurricane Helene whose insurance lapsed now have extra time to renew their coverage. Usually people who have policies through the FEMA-run National Flood Insurance Program get a 30-day grace period after their policies expire when they can renew and still be covered for anything that

happens in the grace period. The agency is extending that until Nov. 26.

For example, if someone's policy ended on Aug. 28, they normally would have had until Sept. 26 to renew it without risking a lapse in coverage. But now they have until Nov. 26 to renew. The agency recommends that policyholders contact their insurance company to see if this applies to them.

"By extending the grace period for renewing policies, we are giving our policyholders some breathing room and demonstrating that the National Flood Insurance Program stands

with them at time of tremendous heartache and difficulty," said Jeff Jackson, the interim senior executive of the program.

The Category 4 hurricane struck Florida's Gulf Coast on Sept. 26 before moving north, where it dumped trillions of gallons of water across several states.

Most private insurance companies don't carry flood insurance, and flood damage is usually not covered by homeowner's insurance policies. The National Flood Insurance Program is the primary provider of flood insurance coverage for residential homes. □

Abortion has passed inflation as the top election issue for women under 30, survey finds

By GEOFF MULVIGHILL

Associated Press

Abortion has passed inflation to become the top issue in the presidential election for women younger than 30 since Vice President Kamala Harris replaced President Joe Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket, according to results released Friday of a survey of female voters by KFF.

About 2 in 5 in the group of young voters said abortion was their top concern in the recent survey, compared with 1 in 5 who ranked it most important in the same survey in the spring.

In the earlier edition, inflation was the top concern for younger voters, as it was for women voters of all ages. Inflation remained the top concern for women in each age group over 30 and for women overall. Women overall ranked abortion as their No. 3 concern, after inflation and threats to democracy, but ahead of immigration.

KFF, a health policy research, polling and news organization, surveyed 678 female voters Sept. 12 through Oct. 1. Most of them were participants in an earlier wave of the same poll, conducted in May and June. The follow-up survey group was supplemented with 29 Black women to ensure an adequate sample size of that group. The sampling error was plus or minus 5 points, with larger ranges for sub-groups of voters.

Abortion has long been a major issue, but the landscape shifted in 2022 when the U.S. Supreme Court, powered by three justices nominated by Harris' current opponent, former President Donald Trump, overturned Roe v. Wade and opened the door for states to impose abortion bans.

Most Republican-controlled states are now enforcing such bans, including 13 that bar abortions at all stages of pregnancy, with some exceptions, and four with bans that kick in after about the first six weeks of pregnancy be-



Abortion-rights protesters cheer at a rally outside the state capitol in Lansing, Mich., June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

fore women often realize they're pregnant.

Harris has been making abortion access a centerpiece of her campaign. Younger women who responded to the survey and spoke with The Associated Press on Friday have noticed.

Ally Zobel, 19, who describes herself as a left-leaning independent and lives in Woodbridge, Virginia, said that reproductive health is the most important issue for her as she prepares to vote for the first time and that she appreciates Harris' calls to restore abortion rights nationally.

She said that she's concerned about stories of women having health emergencies because they can't obtain an abortion and that "pregnancy's really hard" and that people should not be forced to continue if they don't want to.

"As a mom, I don't want my kids growing up in a world where it's like that," she said.

Sydney Wright, a 29-year-old stay-at-home mom in Effingham County, Illinois, said Roe v. Wade being

overturned propelled the restoration of abortion rights to the top of her list of concerns. And while she's not thrilled with everything about Harris, the Democrat's abortion position is one of the main reasons Wright plans to vote for her. "I've seen people have to travel out of state and come to Illinois for health care," said Wright, who is not registered with a political party. "I've heard of cases where doctors were forced to leave patients to suffer until they were practically dead until they could give them medical care."

In addition to the presidential race, a number of other elections this year could impact the abortion landscape, including in nine states where there are ballot measures that would protect the right to abortion in the state constitution.

Races for Congress as well as state offices such as governor, legislators, state supreme court justices and attorneys general could also help determine abortion policy moving ahead. Overall, about two-thirds of women said the election will have a major im-

pact on abortion access, up from just over half in the initial survey.

Most women said it is likely Trump would sign a federal law banning abortions after the first 15 weeks of pregnancy if Congress were to pass such a measure. Just as the survey period ended, Trump said he would veto an abortion ban if one reached his desk. The majority said they believe Harris would sign a law protecting access to abortion nationwide if Congress were to pass that.

There's a deep partisan split over which candidate would be better on abortion access. Most women said they preferred Harris, including 90% of Democrats and fewer than one-fifth of Republicans. The survey found similar dividing lines around which candidate would be better for birth control access and in vitro fertilization.

The survey found that Republican women are slightly less hopeful and enthusiastic, and more anxious and frustrated, about the presidential election than they were earlier this year. By contrast, Democratic women are far more hopeful and enthusiastic, though their anxiety has also risen.

Like in the spring, a little over half of GOP women are satisfied with their presidential choices. But satisfaction among Democratic women shot up from just over one-third to three-quarters. □



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Oct. 7, 1927 - Oct. 13, 2009

THANK YOU FOR THE DECADES OF
BEAUTIFUL MUSIC... AND THANK YOU
FOR BEING OUR FRIEND.



REST IN PEACE, DEAR FRIEND...
YOU SHALL ALWAYS REMAIN HERE
IN OUR HEARTS.

RON & MARIA

Georgia election workers settle defamation lawsuit against conservative website

By JEFF AMY

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Two Georgia election workers have reached a settlement in their defamation lawsuit against a Missouri-based conservative website that falsely accused them of fraud in the 2020 presidential election, according to a court filing earlier this week. The lawsuit against The Gateway Pundit, its owner Jim Hoft and his brother Joe Hoft "has been resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the parties through a fair and reasonable settlement," lawyers for Ruby Freeman and Wandrea "Shaye" Moss said Friday. Monday's filing in St. Louis City Circuit Court didn't give any terms of the settlement, but said actions under the agreement are supposed to be completed by March 29. Both sides asked a judge to postpone the case until then, when they expect to request a dismissal.

Lawyers for Hoft did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Nearly 70 articles cited as defamatory in the lawsuit were no longer available Friday on The Gateway Pundit website, The Associated Press found. The com-



Wandrea "Shaye" Moss, a former Georgia election worker, is comforted by her mother, Ruby Freeman, right, as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol continues to reveal its findings of a year-long investigation, at the Capitol in Washington, June 21, 2022.

Associated Press

pany that owns The Gateway Pundit filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization, but a judge dismissed the case in July, finding the company was solvent and had filed the suit in bad faith in an effort to frustrate the lawsuit by Freeman and Moss. Freeman and Moss, who were Fulton County election workers, sued over The Gateway Pundit's repeated claims that the

mother-and-daughter pair introduced suitcases of illegal ballots while working as ballot counters at the State Farm Arena in Atlanta in November 2020.

Freeman and Moss also sued others, including including former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and One America News Network, saying they pushed Donald Trump's lies about the election being

stolen, which led to death threats that made them fear for their lives.

Freeman and Moss are trying to collect a \$148 million defamation judgment they won against Giuliani for his false ballot fraud claims. OAN settled with Freeman and Moss in 2022. It posted a video saying state officials "have concluded that there was no widespread voter fraud by election

workers who counted ballots at the State Farm Arena in November 2020. The results of this investigation indicate that Ruby Freeman and Wandrea 'Shaye' Moss did not engage in ballot fraud or criminal misconduct while working at State Farm Arena on election night."

Freeman and Moss were dragged into the spotlight on Dec. 3, 2020, when a representative from Trump's legal team, Jacki Pick, showed a Georgia Senate committee surveillance video from the room where ballots were counted. Pick said Republican observers were asked to leave and that once they were gone, election workers counted hidden, fraudulent ballots. Pick didn't name the election workers "but said 'one of them had the name Ruby across her shirt somewhere,'" the lawsuit said. Later that day, The Gateway Pundit was the first outlet to publish Freeman's full name, and in a subsequent story also identified Moss, the lawsuit said.

The allegation that "suitcases" of ballots were pulled from under tables away from the eyes of observers was almost immediately debunked. □

Woman who stabbed classmate to please Slender Man files third release request

WAUKESHA, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin woman accused of stabbing her classmate to please horror character Slender Man more than a decade ago asked a judge again Friday to release her from a psychiatric hospital. Morgan Geyser, who is now 22 years old, filed a petition with Waukesha County Circuit Judge Michael Bohren seeking her release from the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. The petition marks the third time in the last two years she has asked Bohren to let her out of the facility.

She withdrew her first petition two months after filing it in 2022. Bohren denied her

second request this past April, saying she remains a risk to the public. The one-page petition

doesn't include any arguments for Geyser's release. Instead, it cites state laws that require Bohren within



Morgan Geyser is led out Waukesha County Circuit Court after day one of a motion hearing, April 10, 2024, in Waukesha, Wis.

Associated Press

20 days to appoint at least one expert to examine her and produce a report within 30 days of being appointed. The petition also requests the judge schedule a hearing, noting that state law requires him to hold one within 30 days of receiving the examiner's report. Bohren set the hearing for Nov. 1.

Geyser's attorney, Anthony Cotton, didn't immediately respond to email and telephone messages Friday morning.

Geyser and Anissa Weier were 12 in 2014 when they lured Payton Leutner to a Waukesha park after a sleepover. Geyser stabbed

Leutner 19 times while Weier egged her on. Leutner barely survived.

The girls later told investigators they wanted to earn the right to be servants of the fictional Slender Man and that they feared he would harm their families if they didn't carry out the attack.

Geyser pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree intentional homicide and was sent to the psychiatric institute because of mental illness.

Weier pleaded guilty to attempted second-degree intentional homicide and was also sent to the psychiatric center. □

Southern European leaders want Lebanon's army to reassert itself in the country's south

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press

PAPHOS, Cyprus (AP) — The leaders of nine southern European Union countries on Friday pledged support for Lebanon's armed forces to reassert control over the country's southern territory in hopes of bringing peace to an area plagued by fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

In a joint declaration, the leaders of the so-called MED9 — Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Slovenia, Portugal and Croatia — said they would "continue advocating for further support to Lebanon and its people, including to the Lebanese Armed Forces which are called to play a critical stabilizing role."

"The unfolding situation in the Middle East is gravely alarming," the declaration said. "In light of the reverberations of the Gaza conflict on the wider region, we express our extreme concern with the escalation of the military confrontation between Israel and Hezbollah."

French President Emmanuel



French President Emmanuel Macron, left, shakes hands with Cyprus' President Nikos Christodoulides, as Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis approach them after the end of a press conference in Paphos, Cyprus, on Friday, Oct 11, 2024 as the leaders of nine southern European Union member countries and Jordan are meeting to come up with ways of de-escalating the conflict in the Middle East

Macron told a news conference that the return of the Lebanese armed forces to South Lebanon and the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty "are essential to its peace and stability." Macron didn't specify what

form that support would take, but said an Oct. 24 conference in the French capital would aim to ramp up aid deliveries to Lebanon as humanitarian crisis looms while helping to bolster the country's military

and internal security forces. Ahead of that conference, Macron and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni said a meeting of G7 defense ministers would also look at ways of assisting Lebanon's army to move into the south.

Associated Press

The EU leaders' declared support for Lebanon's armed forces comes as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with his Saudi, Qatari and French counterparts about how the election of a new Lebanese president might reduce tensions in the Middle East by getting Hezbollah to move its forces away from Israel's northern border.

Meloni and Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez joined with Macron in condemning what the French president called Israel's "deliberate targeting" of soldiers belonging to a United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL). France, Spain and Italy contribute troops to UNIFIL. "We condemn it, we do not tolerate it and we do not tolerate it happening again," Macron said.

Both Sánchez and his Slovenian counterpart Robert Golob backed Macron's call for a suspension of weapons deliveries to Israel in what they see as an effective way to de-escalate the wars in Lebanon and Gaza. □

New Zealand ship didn't sink because its captain was a woman, the 'appalled' defense minister says

By CHARLOTTE GRAHAM-MCLAY
Associated Press
WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP) — New Zealand's defense minister issued stinging rebukes of what she said were "vile" and "misogynistic" online remarks by "armchair admirals" about the woman captain of a navy ship that ran aground, caught fire and sank off the coast of Samoa.

"Seriously, it's 2024," Judith Collins told reporters Thursday. "What the hell's going on here?"

After days of comments on social media directed at the gender of Commander Yvonne Gray, Collins urged the public to "be better." Women members of the military had also faced verbal abuse in the street in

New Zealand since the ship one of nine in the country's navy was lost on Sunday, Collins said.

All 75 people on board evacuated to safety with only minor injuries after the vessel ran aground on the reef it was surveying about a mile off the coast of Upolu, Samoa's most populous island. The cause of the disaster is not known.

"The one thing that we already know did not cause it is the gender of the ship's captain, a woman with 30 years' naval experience who on the night made the call to get her people to safety," Collins said.

One of the posters was a truck driver from Melbourne, Australia, she added.

"I think that he should keep his comments to people

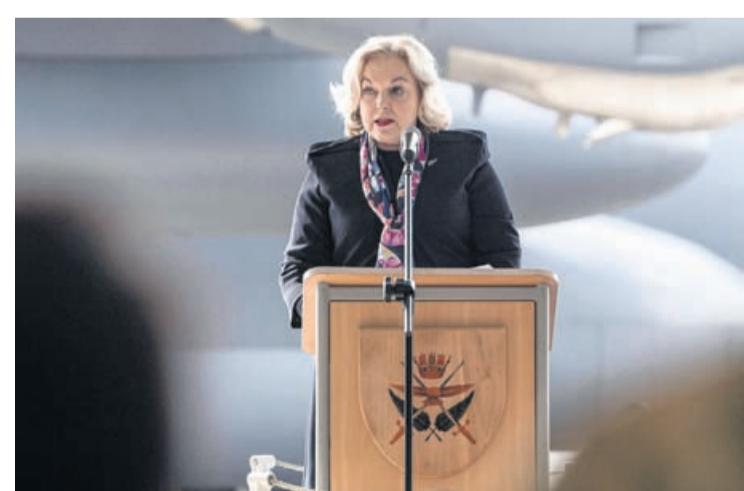
who drive trucks rather than people who drive ships," Collins said. "These are the sorts of people I'm calling out and I'm happy to keep calling them out for as long as it takes to stop this behavior."

About 20% of New Zealand's uniformed military members are women. Collins is New Zealand's first woman defense minister and said she stood alongside Gray and Maj. Gen. Rose King, the country's first woman army chief, who assumed her role in June. "We are all appointed on merit, not gender," said Collins.

The sinking prompted fears of a major fuel spill. On Thursday, officials in Samoa said while the vessel was leaking oil from three places, the amount was re-

ducing each day and was dissipating quickly due to strong winds in the area. Most of the ship's fuel appeared to have burned out in the fire, according to a statement by the Marine Pollution Advisory Commit-

tee. Officials were due to meet with locals Thursday to discuss how to remove the vessel's anchor and three shipping containers from the reef without further damaging the fragile marine ecosystem. □



In this photo provided by New Zealand Defence Force, New Zealand's Defense Minister Judith Collins speaks at Auckland's Whenuapai Air Force Base, on Sept. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

Gunmen kill 21 miners in southwest Pakistan ahead of an Asian security summit

By ABDUL SATTAR

Associated Press

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) —

Gunmen killed 21 miners and wounded six others in Pakistan's southwest, a police official said Friday, drawing condemnation from authorities as a search was launched for the assailants.

The latest attack in the restive Balochistan province came days ahead of a major security summit being hosted in the capital.

The gunmen stormed the accommodation at a coal mine in Duki district late Thursday night, rounded up the men and opened fire, police official Hamayun Khan Nasir said. He said the attackers also fired rockets, lobbed grenades at the mine and damaged machinery before fleeing.

Most of the casualties were from Pashto-speaking areas of Balochistan. Three of the dead and four of the wounded were Afghan. Angered over the violence, local shop owners pulled their shutters down to observe a daylong strike against the killings.

One of the critically



Injured men receive treatment at a hospital in Quetta, Pakistan, Friday, Oct. 11, 2024, following Thursday attack by gunmen in Balochistan province.

Associated Press

wounded miners died later at a hospital, increasing the death toll to 21, Nasir said. However, he said the families of the killed miners for hours refused to bury them and staged a sit-in at the site of the attack in Duki. Under Islamic tradition, burials take place as quickly as possible after death, but the demonstrators before

ending the protest insisted they would not hold funerals until authorities arrest the killers, Nasir said. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the attack, but suspicion is likely to fall on the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, which targets civilians and security forces. The province is home to

several separatist groups who want independence. They accuse the federal government in Islamabad of unfairly exploiting oil- and mineral-rich Balochistan at the expense of locals. Foreign investors, many from China, have pumped billions of dollars in investment into Balochistan, but the separatists say few of

the profits from development reach the local area. The BLA launched multiple attacks in August that killed more than 50. They included 23 people, mostly from eastern Punjab province, who were fatally shot after being taken from buses, vehicles and trucks in Musakhail district in Balochistan. Authorities responded by killing 21 insurgents in the province.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his deep sorrow over the coal mine killings and vowed to eliminate terrorism.

Sarfraz Bugti, the chief minister in Balochistan, said "terrorists have once again targeted poor laborers." He said the attackers were cruel and had an agenda to destabilize Pakistan. "The killing of these innocent laborers will be avenged," he said in a statement.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said those who killed the laborers would not be able to escape the grip of the law.

On Monday, the BLA said it carried out an attack on Chinese nationals outside Pakistan's biggest airport. □

Mexico sends 660 soldiers, National Guard to protect lime growers suffering extortion by cartels

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico has sent 660 soldiers and militarized National Guard officers this month to the western state of Michoacan to protect lime growers who complained they were suffering extortion demands by cartels.

The Defense Department said Thursday that since the start of President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration on Oct. 1, it has sent 300 soldiers and 360 Guard officers to several lime-growing townships.

In August, more than half of lime packing warehouses in the lowlands of Michoacan closed temporarily after growers and distributors said they had received demands from the Los Viagras and other cartels for a cut of their income.

The department said the troops were visiting packing houses, escorting trucks transporting the fruit and providing security at wholesale markets in the main

producing areas around the towns of Apatzingan, Aguililla and Buenavista. It said that in just over a week, the troops deployed to Michoacan had seized



A worker unloads a truck-full of Mexican limes at a citrus packing plant in La Ruana, in the state of Michoacan, Mexico, Nov. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

10 guns and two grenades. Limes are an absolute staple of Mexican cuisine. The Michoacan state government had acknowledged the producers' shutdowns in August, but claimed it was largely because growers were unhappy with the prices they were getting. While limes might seem to be an odd target for drug cartels, they have been a source of income for the gangs for much of this century.

In 2013, lime growers founded and led Mexico's biggest vigilante movement. Cartels at the time had taken control of distribution, manipulating domestic prices for crops like avocados and limes, telling growers when they could harvest and at what price

they could sell their crops. It's not just limes; there is mounting evidence that drug cartels are distorting parts of Mexico's economy, deciding who gets to sell a product and at what price and in return they are apparently demanding sellers pass a percentage of sales revenue back to the cartel. In July, the Femsa corporation, which operates Oxxo, Mexico's largest chain of convenience stores, announced it was closing all of its 191 stores and seven gas stations in the border city of Nuevo Laredo, across from Laredo, Texas, because of gang problems.

The company said it had long had to deal with cartel demands that its gas stations buy their fuel from certain distributors. □



Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

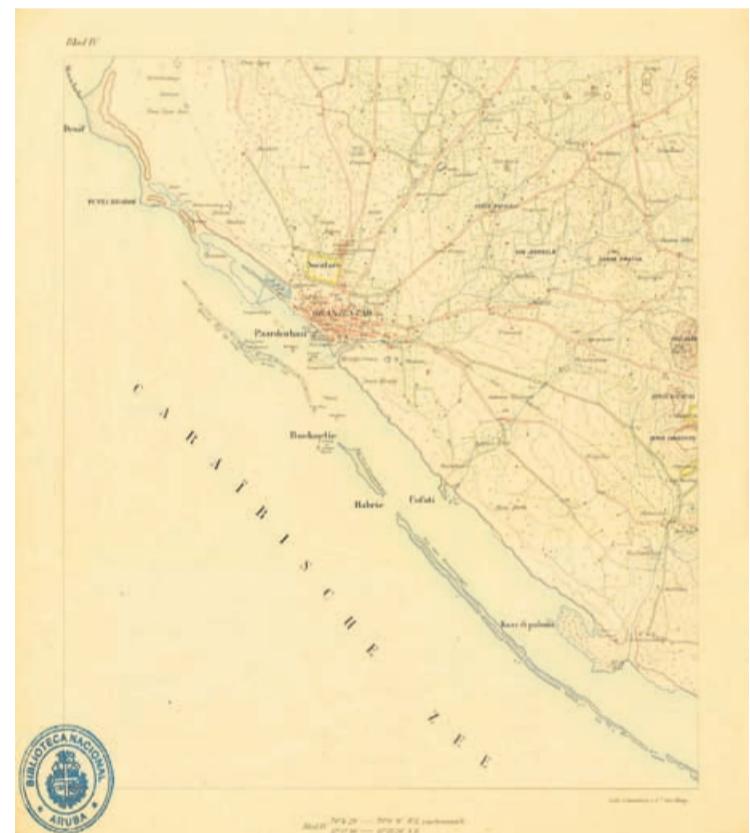
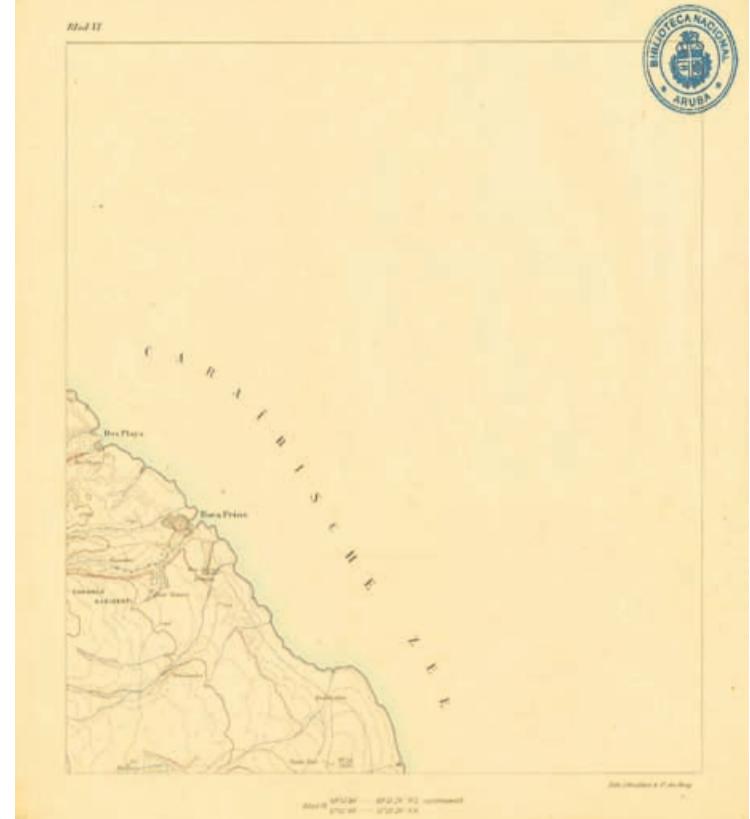
Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indian Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock



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Aruba Conservation Foundation: Bringing the Community of Bringamosa Together for the Lora



As neighbors near Arikok National Park, the residents of Bringamosa had the privilege of being among the first to see the Lora flying freely as it began to gain confidence and explore protected natural areas. The informative evening was presented by Research

& Conservation Manager Giancarlo 'Gian' Nunes and Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation Ranger Roger Solagnier, who shared valuable information and a collective commitment to preserving the Lora.

They shared the incredible

journey of the Lora, from its unexpected arrival to its reintroduction into Aruba's nature after being extinct for over 70 years. Residents also learned how to behave when they see or hear the Lora and were educated on continuous plans to improve the Lora's habitat.

As a token of appreciation, ACF gifted various fruit trees to the community to plant in their gardens, creating more food sources for

the Lora and other species.

Nature knows no borders; that is why together, we are the voice of nature. □



Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamento, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the

public.

Picuda, Sphyraena barracuda, Greater Barracuda

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is Sphyraena barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

Description

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed,

and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

In Aruba:

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □



Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden



To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from

horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse



No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves



Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you

are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some work-out -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour



A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the northeastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadiriki and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

Go for a shopping spree in the city center



Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suits, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! □

The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However,

Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

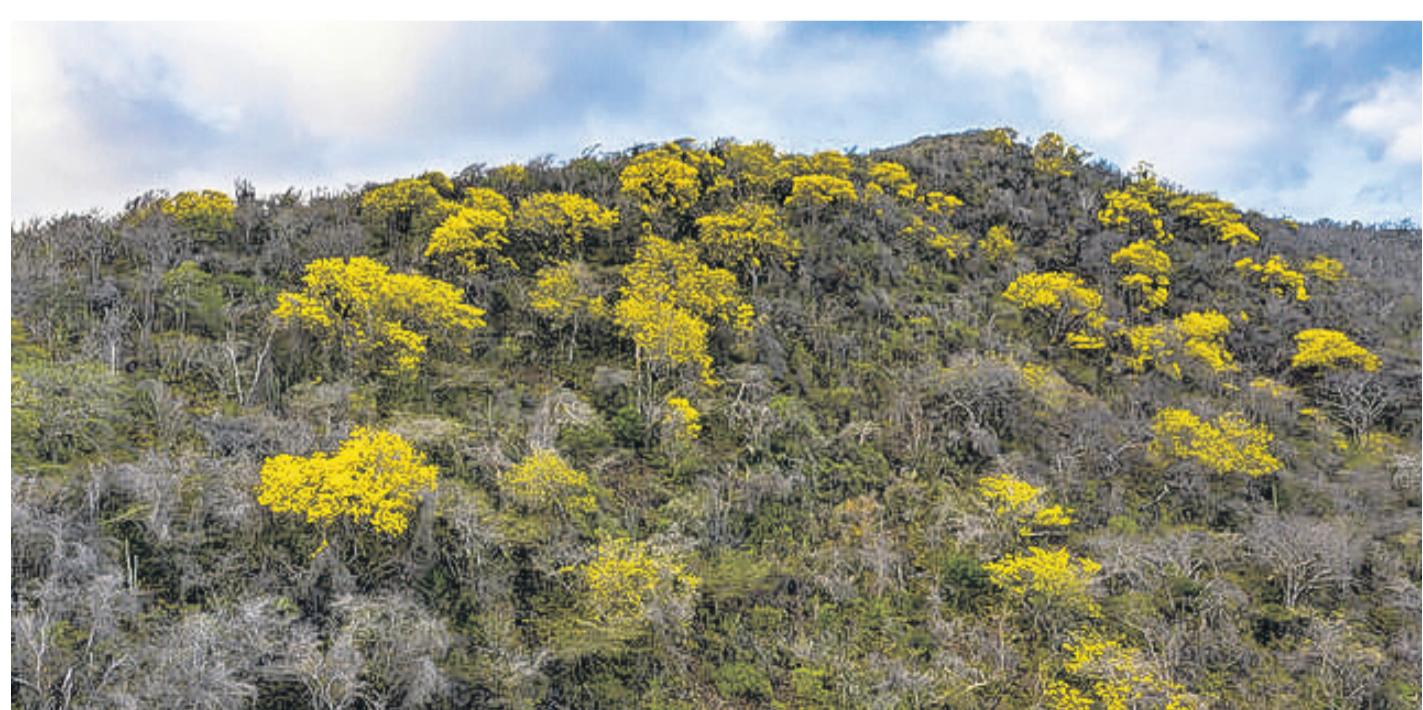
Because of its land surface, Sava-

neta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.□

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



Alonso de Ojeda



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

CROSSWORD

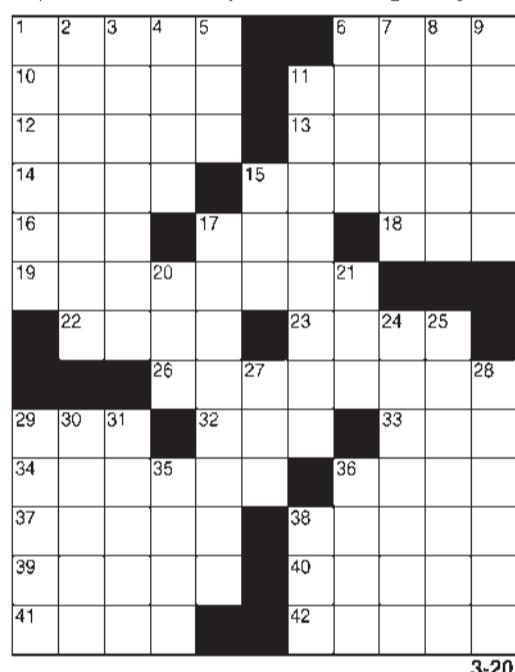
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ease up 41 Call for
 - 6 Sunset site 42 Like an unintended garden
 - 10 Jimmy Smits series 11 Grand, for one
 - 12 Battery, e.g.
 - 13 Rocker John
 - 14 Fine study
 - 15 Ripe
 - 16 Poker prize
 - 17 Melody
 - 18 For each
 - 19 Skunks
 - 22 Turn to liquid
 - 23 Outfits
 - 26 Old World rodents
 - 29 Brink
 - 32 Phone bill addition
 - 33 Ray-gun sound
 - 34 Boxing combo
 - 36 Soccer great
 - 37 Opera's Callas
 - 38 2008 Pixar movie
 - 39 Rage
 - 40 Gawked at



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Dogpatch
 - 2 Watering hole
 - 3 Some-what
 - 4 Scots' caps
 - 5 Ram's mate
 - 6 Droop
 - 7 "Dig in!"
 - 8 Boring movie
 - 9 Copier need
 - 11 Partridge perch
 - 15 Hamm of soccer
 - 17 Aggressive move, perhaps
 - 20 Avenue tree
 - 21 Polite address
 - 24 Graceful antelope
 - 25 Seized up
 - 27 Summer sign
 - 28 Swift
 - 29 Caesar, for one
 - 30 Non-sensical
 - 31 Come together
 - 35 Even
 - 36 Book unit
 - 38 Impress greatly



3-20

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

D W V U X D U ' T U X J U X M W N
D S B Q U O J B O G J P X B F J D W
J Y J Z C U X M W N U X J C T D C . U X J C
U X M W L J Y J Z C B W J J G T J V B J T
U B B . — L X D G J V X B T T J M W M
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SPRING IS NATURE'S WAY OF SAYING, "LET'S PARTY!" — ROBIN WILLIAMS

Cruise ship Schedule: October 01 - 13 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
TUE	01	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C 1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E 1
WED	02	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C 1
THU	03	WORLD EXPLORER	08.00	23.59	C 1
SUN	06	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E -
TUE	08	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B 1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I 1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E 1
SUN	13	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E -

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

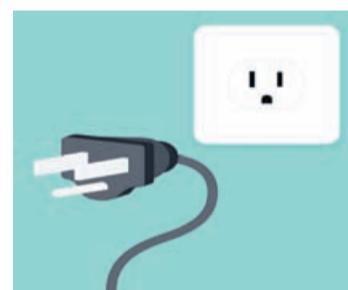
Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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What's behind the northern lights that dazzled the sky farther south than normal



An aurora borealis, also known as the northern lights, is seen in the night sky along with the Big Dipper constellation on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in Moscow, Idaho.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Another in a series of unusually strong solar storms hitting Earth produced stunning skies full of pinks, purples, greens and blues farther south than normal, including into parts of Germany, the United Kingdom, New England and New York City.

"It was a pretty extensive display yet again," said Shawn Dahl, a space weather forecaster at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Center. He said the center has gotten reports of northern lights sightings as far south as New Mexico. "It's been a wonderful year."

There were no immediate reports of disruptions to power and communications.

NOAA issued a severe geomagnetic storm alert on Wednesday after after an outburst from the sun was detected earlier in the week. Such a storm increases the chance of auroras also known as northern lights and can temporarily disrupt power and radio signals.

NOAA's Friday forecast shows continued higher-than-normal activity, but the chances for another overnight show are slim farther south of Canada and the northern Plains states. What causes northern lights?

The sun sends more than heat and light to Earth it sends energy and charged particles known as the solar wind. But sometimes that solar wind becomes a storm. The sun's outer atmosphere occasionally "burps" out huge bursts of energy called coronal mass ejections. They produce solar storms, also known as geomagnetic storms, according to NOAA.

The Earth's magnetic field shields us from much of it, but particles can travel down the magnetic field lines along the north and south poles and into Earth's atmosphere.

When the particles interact with the gases in our atmosphere, they can produce light blue and purple from nitrogen, green and red from oxygen.

Dahl said this storm generated a particularly vibrant display when it hit because

the orientation of the storm's magnetism lined up well with the Earth's. "We stayed well connected," he said.

Why have there been so many solar storms lately? Solar activity increases and decreases in a cycle that last about 11 years, astronomers say. □



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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
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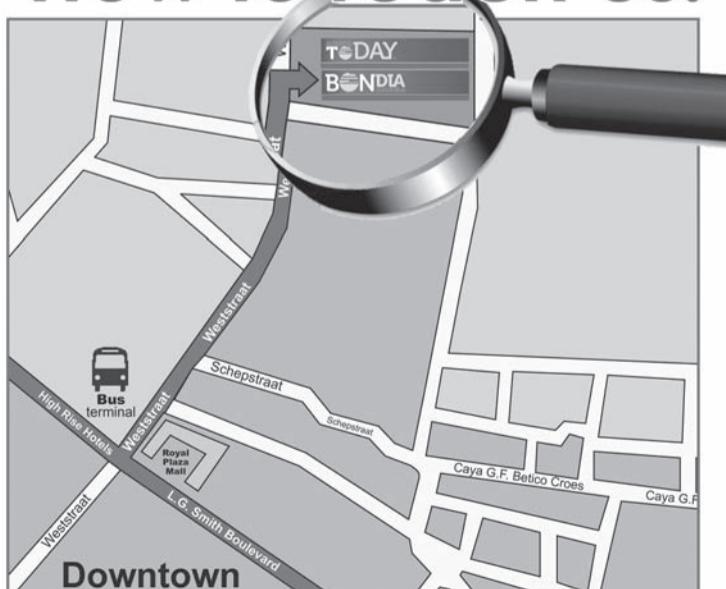
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Austin Stowell is emotional about playing stoic Jethro Gibbs in 'NCIS: Origins'

By HILARY FOX

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Once again, Austin Stowell is having the best day ever — all thanks to him winning the role of legendary TV character Leroy Jethro Gibbs in "NCIS: Origins."

"Since I got this job, it has just been day after day after day of the greatest day of my life," says Stowell, smiling.

The actor has his shoulders back and chest up to portray the ex-Marine-turned-naval investigator, set 25 years before audiences first met "NCIS" star Mark Harmon.

Harmon and his son Sean are behind the idea of this origin story of the special agent, who was on-screen for 19 seasons from 2003 to 2021, solving crimes for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in Virginia.

Stowell says he'll be doing his best to live up to the role Harmon made famous and give viewers a new perspective on "how the hero was born."

Harmon, who narrates and pops up occasionally in the show, has been very supportive of Stowell, making himself available to chat about life, visiting the set and even texting (something technophobic Gibbs would never).

"Mark and I talk a lot about what it means to be the



Actor Austin Stowell poses for a portrait in Los Angeles on Oct. 7, 2024.

Associated Press

leader of a team, about what it means to be a leader of this set and crew," he says. "Those conversations have been invaluable to me because I don't know what it's like. I've never been No. 1 on a TV show before."

The lessons he's learned: be on time, be kind, respectful and professional.

He's also studied up on the "NCIS" universe, something he knew about but wasn't yet a super fan.

In a pop quiz Stowell correctly names all the franchise's four spin-off shows

and only stumbles when it comes to rule three of Gibbs' famous guidelines: "Never believe what you are told."

(He keeps the full list to read from time to time.)

As for the enduring audience appeal of Gibbs, Stowell reckons it comes down to his humanity.

"Gibbs doesn't wear a cape. He just has to use his brain and use his heart. I would argue that that makes him the most super of the heroes because it's real. It's something that we can all accomplish."

"NCIS: Origins" isn't just the procedural that people know and love, says Stowell, despite it having all the crime-solving and fun banter of the franchise.

"This is much more in the vein of a 'True Detective' or, you know, a darker crime piece. And that creates some, what could be uncomfortable situations on set. Very often I find myself kind of in a dark corner." His co-stars and fellow NIS investigators (the C hadn't been added in 1991 when the show starts) include Mariel Molino as

Lala Dominguez and Caleb Foote's Randy.

It's Gibbs' first job since leaving the Marines. He's got personal trauma and a big reputation, but he's also got the sniper focus and built-in lie detector needed to be an integral part of this mystery solving team based at Camp Pendleton, headed up by Kyle Schmid's charismatic Mike Franks.

"I just got to play this for the first time ... the other night where I look at a character and I just go, 'You know, don't you?' And just get to bury them in my eyes," Stowell says, laughing.

Those eyes have been enhanced by special contact lenses to provide the correct "Mark Harmon crystal blue." "NCIS: Origins," which debuts Monday on CBS, has been shooting for three and half months. In that time Stowell has come to realize the parallels between himself and Gibbs, a character who mistrusts technology, loves nature and spends years building a boat in his basement.

When he got the call about getting the part, Stowell was off grid in Vermont. "I'm very much an analog person, so I'm very comfortable in this 1991 world where the reliance is on conversations and relationships as opposed to Siri and Alexa." □

ABC will air 6 additional 'Monday Night Football' games starting this week with Bills-Jets

By JOE REEDY

AP Sports Writer

ABC will simulcast six more ESPN "Monday Night Football" games, including Monday's AFC East matchup between the Buffalo Bills and the New York Jets.

The addition of the six games means ABC will air 17 this season — 14 simulcasts with ESPN (including two playoff games) and three games exclusively on ABC.

The decision to simulcast more games was a joint decision between the NFL and Walt Disney Company, which owns ABC and ESPN.

The other added games are Baltimore at Tampa Bay (Oct. 21),

Tampa Bay at Kansas City (Nov. 4), Houston at Dallas (Nov. 18), Baltimore at Los Angeles Chargers (Nov. 25) and New Orleans at Green Bay (Dec. 23).

The only two Mondays the rest of the regular season where ABC will not have a game are Nov. 11 and Dec. 2.

ABC had games all 18 weeks last season due to an agreement with the NFL since there was no new original fall programming due to the Hollywood writers and actors strikes. With more games on network television, "Monday Night Football" averaged 17.36 million viewers across ESPN, ESPN2 and ABC, a 29% increase over 2022.

It was the best audience numbers for the league's seminal prime-time package since 2000. The Super Bowl 57 rematch between Philadelphia and Kansas City averaged 29.03 million.

Coming into the season, ABC had eight scheduled simulcasts, including two Saturday Week 18 games and two playoff games, and three exclusive MNF games when there were doubleheaders.

It also continues Disney's move toward putting more sports programming back on ABC. Super Bowl 61 from Los Angeles in 2027 will be on the network and the College Football Playoff championship game will also move to ABC the same

year.

More games on ABC will also boost the ratings. Kansas City's 26-13 victory over New Orleans on ESPN averaged 15.91 million, the fourth-most-watched Monday night game not simulcast on ABC. However, the audience was down from the 17.38 million that viewed last season's Week 5 game between Green Bay and Las Vegas.

This week's game not only includes the quarterback matchup between the Jets' Aaron Rodgers and Bills' Josh Allen, it is the first game for the Jets under interim coach Jeff Ulrich after Robert Saleh was fired following a 2-3 start to the season. □

NCAA pilot study finds widespread social media harassment of athletes, coaches and officials

By PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) —

An NCAA study on social media abuse of athletes, coaches and other officials during championship events found nearly one in five posts that were flagged by an AI-based algorithm and determined to be abusive involved sexual harassment and 12% were related to sports betting, according to results of the pilot study released Thursday. The college athletics governing body's findings of its first online harassment study using Signify Group's Threat Matrix examined more than 72,000 messages flagged by an algorithm. Over 5,000 of those posts were confirmed to contain abusive, discriminatory or threatening content and were reported to social media companies.

The study conducted during 2023-2024 examined social media posts related to championship-level events in six sports: baseball, basketball, gymnastics, football, softball and volleyball.



People talk after a panel discussion at the NCAA Convention, Jan. 19, 2017, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Of the abusive posts, the study found 80% were directed at March Madness athletes, with female basketball players receiving about three times more abusive messages than their male counterparts. The study cited one unidentified athlete who received more than 1,400 harassing messages in a two-week span.

"The risks and mental health challenges associated with being a victim of online abuse or threats are real and have a direct and immediate effect on athletes, coaches, officials, and their families," the NCAA wrote in its report. "This can impact them on both a personal and professional level, and ultimately affect their wellbeing and ability

to perform at their best." The NCAA said sports-betting harassment was spread across all the championships covered in the study. Racial comments made up about 10% of the abusive messages studied, but the survey found the men's and women's NCAA basketball tournaments were a focus of such content. "Toxic online fans resorted

to racist mockery, comparing players to monkeys and labelling them as thugs," the NCAA's study found.

Women's basketball players, teams and officials received such treatment, the NCAA said.

"The level of Dogwhistle content during the (basketball) Women's championships should be highlighted as well in connection with racism," the governing body said in the report.

The study monitored the accounts of 3,164 student-athletes, 489 coaches, 197 game officials, 165 teams and 12 NCAA official channels using Signify Group's artificial intelligence Threat Matrix. It identified varying areas of online abuse and threats, and established 16 categories in which to organize messages that were deemed to be abusive. The NCAA told The Associated Press the algorithm's flagging system was based on a series of issue-specific keywords and human analysts organized abusive messages into the categories. □

Luke Weaver let out 'ferocious jungle cat' in new role as Yankees closer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Converted into the New York Yankees closer, Luke Weaver let out his animal instinct.

"It's just like the ferocious jungle cat just comes out me," he said during the clubhouse celebration after Thursday night's AL Division Series clincher in Kansas City, speaking on the Yes Network.

"You just feed into the energy," he said. "I think you tell yourself you've got to be relentless, you got to be convicted. I don't want to mess around and sleep at night be like: I didn't give my all. I was scared or I was timid. Just go right after them and keep at it."

New York opens the AL Championship Series at home against Cleveland or Detroit on Monday night, seeking to reach the World

Series for the first time since winning its 27th title in 2009. Yankees relievers didn't allow an earned run in 15 2/3 innings against the Royals. It was the third-most innings without an earned run in a postseason series after 18 1/3 by Minnesota against Toronto in the 1991 ALCS and 17 by the Los Angeles Dodgers against the Chicago Cubs in the 2017 NLCS.

Weaver saved all three wins against the Royals, striking out five in 4 1/3 innings while allowing two hits. He is seven for seven in save chances since replacing Clay Holmes as closer on Sept. 6 and has struck out 29 of 55 batters.

"We're really happy to have him and keep calling him the unicorn," Juan Soto said. "It's just a cool way to call him."

Holmes had been the



New York Yankees relief pitcher Luke Weaver throws during the ninth inning in Game 4 of an American League Division baseball playoff series against the Kansas City Royals Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

closer since supplanting Aroldis Chapman early in 2022 season, but the two-time All-Star blew 13 of 43 save chances, tying the Yankees record shared by Goose Gossage and Dave

Righetti.

Dropped to a setup role, he pitched five scoreless innings against Kansas City, striking out three and walking just one.

"It's treating every out like

it's the most important out in the game," he said. "To me it simplifies things. You kind of take how the whole situation put a situation in your head like this lane or this batter or whatever. It's like you got to get every batter out and this out could be the most difficult out of the game."

Holmes said it wasn't hard to accept his new role.

"Things didn't go perfect," he said. "It doesn't mean I still can't get outs and be a really good pitcher. ... No matter what role it is, I'll be a part of it and I want to help my teammates. And I think just to have that mindset, it's kind of helped me be resilient." Right-handers Tommy Kahnle, Jake Cousins and Ian Hamilton also pitched in relief along with left-handers Tim Hill and Tim Mayza. □

Analysis: Some quarterbacks just need a second chance, or third or fourth

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

Sam Darnold is realizing his potential on his fourth stop. Baker Mayfield and Geno Smith did the same. Jared Goff found his way on his second team.

Some quarterbacks just need a second chance. Or third. Or fourth.

Darnold was supposed to be a stopgap player in Minnesota, signed to a one-year, \$10 million deal to keep a seat warm for J.J. McCarthy. But the rookie first-round pick suffered a season-ending knee injury in August and Darnold has seized the opportunity.

The Vikings (5-0) are the NFC's only undefeated team going into their bye week and Darnold is a major reason why they've had success. He has completed 63.5% of his passes for 1,111 yards, 11 touchdowns and four interceptions with a 103.4 passer rating.

"I knew all along if we could get some guys open, Sam Darnold's going to hit them because he's talented. He can play quarterback in the NFL, I've always believed that. I'm just proud of him," Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell said on Pat McAfee's show this week. "He's kind of not re-



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Sam Darnold is introduced before an NFL football game against the New York Jets, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium in London.

Associated Press

ally worried about anything other than just his role on our team. He's one of our captains. He works as hard as anybody to be ready to go. I'm not surprised when he goes out and has success."

Selected by the Jets with the No. 3 overall pick in 2018, Darnold lasted just three seasons in New York. He played for two coaches Todd Bowles and Adam Gase on teams that went 13-35. Darnold then spent

two seasons in Carolina, playing for two coaches Matt Rhule and Steve Wilks and three offensive coordinators on teams that went 12-22. He crossed over with Mayfield during a chaotic year in Carolina in 2022 and backed up Brock Purdy last season in San Francisco. Mayfield went from the Panthers to the Rams in 2022 and ended up in Tampa Bay last year. Solid coaching and supporting cast matters.

Darnold has it in Minnesota with O'Connell, Justin Jefferson, Aaron Jones, among others.

"A lot of guys with ability and sometimes they get in a different circumstance or different system and they excel in it and then other times they don't," six-time Super Bowl champion coach Bill Belichick said on SiriusXM show "Let's Go!" "I think we've all seen a lot of guys, the Tom Bradys of the world, how much he

improved over the course of his career, it's really phenomenal. It's not where you were. It's where you're going and how hard are you willing to work at it."

Darnold refused to blame the culture in New York and the organizational instability for his failure to succeed.

"I had a lot of opportunities in New York and I always felt like I could have played better there," Darnold said last week in London before the Vikings beat Aaron Rodgers and the Jets 23-17. Darnold wasn't at his best against his former team. He completed just 45.2% of his passes and had a 50.3 passer rating, the first time he was under 100 this season.

But Darnold displayed poise and resilience. He bounced back from a pick and threw a 25-yard pass to Jefferson on second-and-9 to extend a fourth-quarter drive that ended with a field goal after the Jets had closed to 20-17.

"What I was proud of with Sam was it was another example of when momentum had kind of turned in many ways by our own doing, he was able to jog back out on that field, walk into the huddle and move the team," O'Connell said. □

Nevada high court to review decision in ex-Raiders coach Jon Gruden's lawsuit over NFL emails

By KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Former Las Vegas Raiders head



Las Vegas Raiders head coach Jon Gruden speaks with the media following an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Pittsburgh, Sept. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

coach Jon Gruden will get a full Nevada Supreme Court review of a lawsuit he filed against the NFL over emails leaked to the media before he resigned from the team in 2021.

The state's highest court isn't scheduling oral arguments but said Thursday that all seven justices will reconsider findings after a panel split 2-1 in a May 14 decision to dismiss the case. The same three justices on July 1 rejected, by the same 2-1 margin, a request from Gruden's attorneys to reconsider.

The panel decided the league could move the

civil case into arbitration that might be overseen by a defendant, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. Two justices said Gruden knew when he signed a contract with the Raiders that the NFL used arbitration to resolve disputes. The dissenting justice said it would be "outrageous" for Goodell to arbitrate a dispute in which he is a named defendant.

Attorneys for Gruden, Goodell and the league didn't immediately respond Friday to email messages. NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy declined to comment.

Gruden's lawsuit alleges that Goodell and the league pressured the Raiders to fire Gruden by leaking emails containing racist, sexist and homophobic comments that Gruden sent, when he was an on-air analyst at ESPN, about Goodell and others in the NFL. Gruden resigned from the Raiders in November 2021.

The NFL appealed to the state high court after a state judge in Las Vegas in May 2022 rejected league bids to dismiss Gruden's claim outright or to order out-of-court talks that could be overseen by Goodell. □